

Full Council – 26th February 2025

Amendment to Report C/24/74 – Draft General Fund Budget and Council Tax Resolution.

These amendments have been necessitated following the voting outcome on 2025/26 Pay Award which was confirmed on the 25th of February 2025.

The Pay Award outcome has minor cascading impact on the figures presented in the Draft Report. The changes are summarised below:

1. The Net Service Expenditure figure of £19,579,789 stated in Table 1 (Indicative General Fund Summary) has now changed to £19,417,265. Following the pay award confirmation, it has been necessary to review both salary and pensions budgets and adjust accordingly. The net movement is now reflected in the revised Net Service Expenditure figure
2. Also, in light of the above, the amount needed to be drawn down from reserves previously stated at £2,406m in the Draft report is now revised to £2,244m. Further, the General Fund General Reserve forecast balance will now be £4.686m by 31st March 2026. Total General Fund Reserves (General Reserve plus Earmarked Reserves) are forecast to be £12,495m at 31 March 2026. The net forecast use of reserves in 2025/26 is £2,181k (including 2024/25 carried forward movements into reserves).

The following Tables (Table 1 and Table 1.1) in the below listed appendices to the Full Council Paper have been updated to reflect the new figures:

- Appendix 1 - General Fund Summary.
- Appendix 6 – Council Reserves

Table 1

GENERAL FUND		Appendix 1	
SUMMARY			
2023/24		2024/25	2025/26
Actual		Original Budget	Original Budget
£		£	£
	SUMMARY OF NET EXPENDITURE		
	Service Heads		
5,345,578	Governance & Finance	5,371,250	7,511,500
2,194,910	Governance, Law & Democracy	2,244,050	-
803,112	Leadership Support	549,040	1,754,490
4,579,211	People & Customer Services	4,229,810	3,064,860
162,834	Planning and Building Control	312,560	1,789,520
3,936,041	Reg & Community Services	5,199,840	4,854,930
2,313,419	Housing	3,085,090	3,267,660
2,576,609	Place and Growth	2,706,160	2,919,920
2,770,186	Corporate Estates & Development	1,647,790	1,586,760
-	Recharges	(6,479,240)	(7,008,370)
-	Vacancy Target & Savings Target not included in service heads	116,000	(324,005)
24,681,900	TOTAL HEAD OF SERVICE NET EXPENDITURE	18,982,350	19,417,265
541,437	Internal Drainage Board Levies	585,610	609,035
631,812	Interest Payable and Similar Charges	2,381,000	3,093,000
(254,627)	Interest and Investment Income	(3,043,000)	(3,056,000)
-	Council Tax Freeze Grant	-	-
(365,568)	New Homes Bonus Grant	(135,700)	(431,590)
(6,731,512)	Other non-service related Government Grants	(5,758,680)	(4,168,170)
2,801,380	Town and Parish Council Precepts	2,993,850	3,161,440
21,304,821	TOTAL GENERAL FUND OPERATING NET EXP	16,005,430	18,624,980
(2,800,189)	Net Transfers to/(from) Earmarked RESERVES	(392,090)	(2,243,770)
1,964,249	Minimum Revenue Provision	2,325,000	2,525,000
1,408,534	Capital Expenditure funded from Revenue	1,055,000	1,205,000
21,877,416	TOTAL TO BE MET FROM LOCAL TAXPAYERS	18,993,340	20,111,210
4,026	Transfer to/(from) the Collection Fund	-	-
(2,097,319)	Business Rates Income	(4,023,170)	(4,063,130)
(212,326)	Revenue Support Grant	-	(263,380)
19,571,797	TOTAL TO BE MET FROM DEMAND ON THE COLLECTION FUND & GENERAL RESERVE	14,970,170	15,784,700
(14,233,437)	Council Tax-Demand on Collection Fund	(14,970,170)	(15,784,700)
5,338,360	(SURPLUS)/DEFICIT FOR YEAR	-	-
	GENERAL RESERVE		
5,338,360	Balance at Beginning of Year		
5,338,360	(Surplus)/Deficit for Year	-	
5,338,360	BALANCE AT END OF YEAR	-	

Table 1.1 Detail of Council Reserves

Earmarked Reserves	Balance at 01/04/2024 £000s	2024/25 Projection	Estimated Balance at 31/03/2025 £000s	2025/26 Projection	Estimated Balance at 31/03/2026 £000s	Purpose
Business Rates	(338)	143	(195)	195	-	To Support requirements of Rates Retention Scheme
Leisure	(497)	-	(497)	25	(472)	To meet future Leisure improvements.
Carry Forward	(2,316)	613	(1,703)	680	(1,023)	For items of Expenditure not incurred or ringfenced grant or income not applied in the previous financial year
Vehicles, Equip and Technology Reserve	(146)	115	(31)	-	(31)	To meet, vehicle, equipment and technology replacement needs or improvements.
Maintenance of Graves	(12)	-	(12)	12	-	Amounts in held in perpetuity to meet the cost of maintaining certain graves.
New Homes Bonus (NHB)	(409)	-	(409)	409	-	To fund the anticipated additional cost of services.
Corporate Initiatives	(151)	14	(137)	-	(137)	To support Corporate Plan and goals.
IFRS Reserve	(5)	-	(5)	5	-	The impact of International Financial Reporting Standards
Economic Development	(1,235)	325	(910)	834	(76)	Towards the regeneration of the district and to support the generation of new income.
Community Led Housing	(193)	60	(133)	66	(67)	To support Community Led Housing Developments and to deliver more affordable housing units of mixed tenure.
Lydd Airport	(9)	-	(9)	9	-	To fund anticipated ongoing costs of monitoring the conditions at Lydd Airport.
Homelessness Prevention	(824)	87	(737)	693	(44)	To flexibly fund ways to reduce the Homelessness expenditure by taking preventative action.
High Street Regeneration	(1,196)	-	(1,196)	914	(282)	To support the delivery of regeneration projects within the district 's high street areas.
Climate Change	(3,574)	381	(3,193)	3082	(111)	To fund initiatives to help the council achieve net -zero carbon emissions by 2030.
Transformation Fund	(1,165)	752	(413)	133	(280)	Set aside to enable investment initiatives that will deliver Future Savings
Fin Stability Reserves (FSR)	-	(410)	(410)	(4,876)	(5,286)	To provide required stability and resilience for one off projects
Total Earmarked Reserves	(12,070)	2,080	(9,990)	2,181	(7,809)	
General Fund Reserve	(4,686)	-	(4,686)	-	(4,686)	

This page is intentionally left blank